

**Governor's P-20 Council
Access to Higher Education Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 27, 2005
3:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

P-20 Council Members Present: Dr. John Haeger, Dr. Peter Likins, Dr. Angel Cabrera, Dr. Roy Flores, Mark Bryce, Representative Laura Knaperak, Regent Ernie Calderon, Laura Palmer Noone, Dr. Jim Zaharis, Greg Donovan

Others: Gail Hewitt for Michael Crow, Dr. Terry Callaway, Stephanie Jacobs, Kathy Boyle, Suzanne Miles, Dr. Don Isaacson, Dr. April Osborn, Michael Curd, Lynda French, Stephanie Jacobson

Staff: Debra Raeder, Darcy Renfro, Becky Hill

Debra Raeder, Executive Director of the P-20 Council, welcomed everyone present and invited everyone to introduce themselves. After introduction, Representative Knaperak provided an update on the Legislative Higher Education Roundtables.

Representative Knaperak stated that she has been appointed the Chair of the House Higher Education Committee and that Senator Linda Gray has been appointed the Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee. Representative Knaperak indicated that the Committees were formed by leadership to examine the issue surrounding access to higher education, including accessibility, affordability, accountability, funding, articulation, as well as the issue of four year baccalaureates being offered by community colleges. To address these issues, she and Senator Gray are conducting roundtables at local community colleges around the state. There have been nine Roundtables to date: Eastern Arizona College; Pima Community College; Sierra Vista; Yavapai Community College; and Central Arizona College. Each roundtable has been fairly well attended, with approximately 50 to 100 persons at each one. Input from the various roundtables has been varied depending on the needs of each of the local communities. Each area has expressed common interest and concerns in the areas as of accessibility, accountability, funding, articulation, and quality of both the degree and the teaching staff. Dr. Flores, Dr. Callaway and Dr. Haeger made brief comments about the roundtables they have attended or hosted. Representative Knaperak also presented a brief overview of the bill she sponsored last legislative session regarding four-year baccalaureate degrees being offered by community colleges on a limited basis.

Regent Calderon then presented an overview of the work being done by the Joint Conference Committee (JCC) to address the same issues identified above. The JCC has spent considerable time reviewing these issues as well as the issues surrounding college baccalaureate degrees. At its meeting on September 26, 2005 meeting, the members of the JCC approved four recommendations be move forward for comments from the community colleges and university presidents, members of the district governing boards and the Arizona Board of Regents. These four recommendations are:

- Increase transfer credits for select program: the JCC recommends expanding the numbers of baccalaureate programs for which 65-90 hours of transfer credit is possible and applicable from community colleges to designated unique programs. Extending the number of credits students could complete at the community colleges would improve access and affordability.
- Increase the number and scope institutional partnerships: the JCC recommends the increase in the number of university-community college institutional partnerships and expansion of these partnerships to include joint appointment of faculty; joint admission of qualified students; shared/joint advising services; and shared facilities and dedicated space.
- Establish Joint Funding Models: the JCC recommends that collaboratively, the community colleges and universities focus on joint funding models to assure that necessary dollars are available for both sides of the partnership.
- Expand Arizona University System Campuses and Statewide Programs: the JCC supports the Arizona University System's expansion of branch campuses and statewide offerings such as NAU to open branch or regional campuses where there is an identified need; ASU expanding their branch campuses; and UA in developing UA South.

There are two areas that the JCC will continue to work to attempt to reach consensus: Allow and fund certain baccalaureate degrees at community colleges and authorize community colleges to explore becoming a four year college. The issue of who would manage these recommendations is also still under consideration.

Dr. Callaway, Dr. Flores, and Dr. Haeger provided additional comments regarding the work and discussions by the JCC.

Following these two presentations and discussions, Darcy Renfro presented the Governor's Guiding Principles for the discussions relating to community college and university relationships and four year degree potential:

- Primary goal must be increasing accessibility to all higher education institutions in Arizona.
- Arizona has one of the best community college systems in the country. We need to develop policies that enhance the system.
- We must avoid all or nothing approaches when it comes to access and affordability.
- We must generate higher education systems that meet workforce needs.
- Isolated decision-making about education system needs to end as we focus on the entire educational spectrum.

Don Isaacson addressed the Committee on the concerns of the private post secondary institutions and that their issues and concerns are recognized in these discussions.

The Committee had discussion regarding the issues they perceive are impacting higher education, including:

- Documented need for 4 year expansion;
- University ability to provide for the need;
- Community college pathway/mechanisms for 4 year programs;
- Community colleges as 4-year institutions;
- How to finance;
- Financial aid:
 - public
 - private
 - need-based
 - merit-based
- Academic standards;
- Regulation and oversight;
- Need to define accessibility:
 - financial
 - geographic
 - academic
 - program
 - time (adults)

The Committee then discussed possible system wide solutions:

- P-20 Council adopt Governor's guiding principles (formalize/endorse);
- The JCC report back to the Committee on the JCC discussion as they work to:
 - Broaden scope of recommendations 1-3;
 - Work to resolve the issues surrounding recommendations 5 and 6;
 - Add timelines to all of the recommendations.
- Compile/review compendium on financial aid (Randi Stein);
- Address transitioning issues (barriers to higher education) including
 - accessibility;
 - educating public about financial programs

The Committee agreed that the P-20 Council is the body that should be looking at the work being conducted by the various groups, organizations and the legislature and to formulate consensus regarding the issues. The first goal of the Committee is to adopt the Governor's Guiding Principles. Committee members will also provide input to Debra for further consideration and possible adoption as the Committee's and Council's guiding principles.

The Committee also agreed to wait for the final recommendations from the JCC October 19th meeting as well as the Legislative Roundtables regarding articulation, four-year baccalaureates at community colleges as well as accountability issues.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.